

WINNER: BEST DRAMA, 2007, Christians in Theatre Arts sketch contest

Beneventi and Sons

By Michael Leathers

CAST: 2 males

Pop: Owner of an auto body shop in Staten Island, mid-50s to early 60s, widowed.

Nick: Pop's oldest son, mid 30s, works in the shop. Dedicated.

RUN TIME: 8 minutes

PROPS – None required.

STORY

Nick has worked faithfully at his father's auto body shop since graduating from high school. He returns from a tow call to discover his younger brother, Tony, has come home after walking away from the family five years ago. Nick's father, Pop, has given the shop the day off so everyone can celebrate his youngest son's return. Nick has to choose between offering forgiveness and harboring bitterness.

THEMES

Prodigal Son. Jealousy. Bitterness. Unconditional love. Father-son relationships.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15: 25-32.

Beneventi and Sons

(We're in the customer waiting area of an urban auto shop. NICK, sullen, sits in a chair. Several empty soda cans rest on the small table next to him. He's been listening to the muffled sounds of a celebration in a nearby room. POP enters)

POP

Hey, Nick, where you been? I been tryin' to reach you on the radio for hours.

NICK

Here, Pop. Where I always been.

POP

Whatta you talkin' about? You went out on that call four hours ago.

NICK

Yeah, that's a long time to be gone. You musta been sick to death.

POP

Where you been with my truck? I'm thinkin' maybe my Nick's got a girl he don't want his old man to know about. Maybe you been payin' her a visit?

NICK

I don't got no girl. When do I got time for a girl?

POP

Well, it don't matter 'cause I got news. Great news. You're not gonna believe what happened after you left.

NICK

Tony.

POP

I'm workin' on Mr. Lundberg's Stratus ...

NICK

He's back.

POP

I wanted to surprise you.

NICK

It ain't hard to figure out, Pop. You can hear the party clear across Staten Island.

POP

Hey, it's great, isn't it? After all these years. My Tony, he's back.

NICK

Yeah, I'm dancin' for joy here.

POP

We're a family again. Me, you, your brother.

NICK

Momma.

POP

Hey, she would of loved to been here, wouldn't she? To see her boy come home. But old Saint Pete, he's lettin' her watch from heaven.

NICK

That's great, Pop.

POP

Why don't you join the party? Come see Tony. I gave the shop the day off. We got food from Francesco's. Smoked salmon. Corned beef. Deviled eggs. Great big pickles. Big platters of cold cuts and cheeses. I musta ordered the whole menu. 'Cept for that stuffed cabbage. Gives me the gas. Oh, yeah, and I got some roast beef and those banana peppers you like so much.

NICK

That's Tony's favorite.

POP

What? You both like it.

NICK

No, that was Tony. Tony liked it.

POP

Then grab a slice of pizza. We only got pepperoni left. Maybe some veggie –

NICK

-- I hate pepperoni.

POP

So pick 'em off. ... What gives with you? You not hungry?

NICK

Yeah, I don't got much appetite.

POP

You gotta eat. Your mother was always sayin' you –

NICK

-- I know what momma said. I was there. I heard her.

POP

(Tempt)

I got cannolis.

NICK

Pop, I ...

END OF SAMPLE

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